

## **AMORY CURRENT LAKE BIOASSESSMENT**

**JULY 2015**

Greetings Lake Amory Residents!

Please find the latest bioassessment report for your lake below. Our next lake inspection is scheduled for **August 18<sup>th</sup>**, weather permitting. Key highlights of this update include:

- Hydrilla status
- Herbicide treatment status for each section of the lake
- Continued encouragement to plant native aquatic plants along your shoreline
- Recommendations for you and your lake

### **Observations:**

On **July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**, Seminole County Lake Management Program biologists, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake Amory**.

All areas of the lake were accessible. No hydrilla was found during this inspection. Hydrilla will be closely monitored over the next few months.

**Cactus Canal** and **Outfall Canal** were found to be in good condition. An algae bloom is present but has been reduced compared to the previous survey, due to an increase in water. Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) observed in the cove included bladderwort. Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, elephant ear, dog fennel, and torpedo grass. Alligator weed has increased slightly since last inspection.

**Photo: MSBU contracted herbicide applicator**



The **Bird Island** area was found in fair condition. Native vegetation such as duck potato, pickerelweed, native sedges, primrose willow, spike rush, and bulrush had expanded in this area.

**Photo: Vegetation of bird island**



**The Cove** was found to be in great shape again! Native emergent vegetation was doing well and minimal invasive vegetation was found. A large group of invasives has recently been removed. It is recommended that native species be planted in this area before invasive species return. Invasive torpedo grass and alligator weed were targeted in this area for herbicide treatment. Bladderwort was found in abundance in the cove. Other submersed aquatic vegetation included southern naiad and smooth water hyssop. A moderate amount of algae was present.

**Photo: Algae found in The Cove area**



The **Lake Proper** area was found to be in good condition as well. The access corridors were open and accessible. The small algae bloom that was found during the prior inspection was not present. Emergent vegetation included: canna, buttonbush, rush fireweed, pennywort, yellow cow lily, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, and bulrush.

**Photo: Lake Proper**



The secchi reading (water clarity) at the time of inspection was 3.9 ft in a total depth of 10.6 ft. The grass carp barrier was found in good condition. One triploid (sterile) grass carp fish was observed during the inspection. Water elevation at the time of inspection was 39.80 ft above sea level.

**Lake Recommendations:**

- 1- Work together or establish a lake association with other lakefront owners. Have at least one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss lake specific issues, especially lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys to the community. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program at (407) 665-2439 with questions or to schedule a meeting.

- 2- Increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna). Native shoreline plants help absorb nutrients from rainfall/run-off, thereby improving habitat and water quality, and reducing shoreline erosion of sediments/organic matter into the lake. Without management, this erosion and sedimentation will fill the lake over time, creating a wetland-type of environment. Planting native species now can assist in slowing this process (formally known as eutrophication). In addition, native plantings can reduce your herbicide costs/needs, thereby providing a savings to you!
- 3- Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, such as Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community about reducing personal pollution by: decreasing overall fertilizer usage, using only phosphorous-free and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your lake and the stormdrains that lead to the lakes. All of these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for more information regarding the free educational programs available.
- 4- Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list in order to share this information with others. Valuable information is contained within these reports.

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